



THE RAVEN



2015 - 2016 SCHOOL YEAR - SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

Special 'Kick-off' Edition

2015 Intensive Spirituality Week Great Success!

The Opening of the 2015-2016 Academic School Year began with the orientation staff and seasoned seminarians welcoming new seminarians to the Hill. After a few days of orientation the returning seminarians arrived August 23, 2015. The following day Intensive Spirituality Week began. Each class received specialized classes aimed at spiritual growth. All students also participated in daily Mass, contemplative meditation and prayer time, Eucharistic Adoration, Morning and Evening Communal Prayer, Rosary, and Small Group *Lectio Divina*. Students also heard special exhortations from Fr. Rector Denis Robinson, O.S.B. and instruction from Fr. Vice-Rector Tobias Colgan, O.S.B. Other activities included: a Ping-Pong tournament, basketball scrimmage, volleyball, a cookout at the UnStable, a Rap-a-thon, a Big Birthday Bash, and other such fun. Intensive Spirituality Week was wrapped up in a Day of Prayer - Sunday, August 30, 2015 - led by The Most Rev. Jason Gordon, Bishop of Bridgetown, Barbados.

This year's Intensive Spirituality Week urged me to confront my brokenness and vulnerability, and in that intimate encounter, to truly seek God as He intended - naked and authentic. God desires all of me, including my rough edges and cracked surfaces. To trust grace is no easy task, but it is required to grow spirituality. Trusting something or someone other than myself forces me to relinquish control, diminishing pride and enhancing my contemplative encounter with the Ultimate Reality. In terms of relationships, I generally decided the terms and conditions, set the parameters and rules of engagement. However, a true faith encounter with Jesus Christ comes from deep within our interior self, and while the paradox of mystical prayer continues to be inexpressible, there is at least one thing I can honestly say: by embracing my brokenness, limitations, and imperfections; I can better acknowledge a basic truth about myself - God still loves me unconditionally.

-Br. Cassian Elkins, OSB, II Theology

I found the amount of reverence in the Catholic



East very interesting. This was brought to our attention by Sr. Jeana Visel, O.S.B. in our class on Iconography. I also found the icons to be very contemplative. Our class learning the history of the deaconate from Father Bede Cisco was fascinating!

-Michael Bower, III Theology

I learned from Fr. Christian Raab, O.S.B. that as a diocesan, I'll never have to take the evangelical vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. However, my class learned some intriguing and fruitful ways to live the spirit of the evangelical vows in the diocesan life. Not only is this practice highly recommended by Magisterial teaching, it could be a real source of renewal and growth in parish life and diocesan priesthood.



G. Marc Bently, I Theology

Intensive Spirituality Week, continued

Something I found very thought provoking and profound this week was one of the lectures from Fr. Rector Denis Robinson. We were talking about different sacrificial rites done by Jewish priests in the temple and how it relates to what I am called to as a priest. Father pointed out that the key to success for a priest is to have the ability to recognize that which I am holding inside myself and be willing to give that to God. The lecture helped me to look at myself more authentically in seeing the reality that I am withholding parts of myself from God. Through the grace of God and hopefully through an openness to the formation process over the next four years, I hope to discern who I am in my strengths and weaknesses and give all of this to God.



-Jon Miskin, I Theology

I learned a lot from Fr. Adrian Burke, O.S.B. in his spirituality class during spirituality week. The greatest thing I learned is that one of the primary goals of prayer is getting to know your essential self, your true self that rests in God. By doing this we get to know God better because we are made in His image. One of the best ways to do this is to sit in silence with God. In our busy world however, it is very hard to sit in silence without our minds getting distracted. This is where the different methods of prayer can be very helpful. Locking into a meditative prayer like the rosary or reflecting on Scripture can be tools to help quiet our hearts and minds and allow us to achieve that true silence where we can sit with God and listen to what He is telling us about our essential selves so we can grow closer and know Him better.

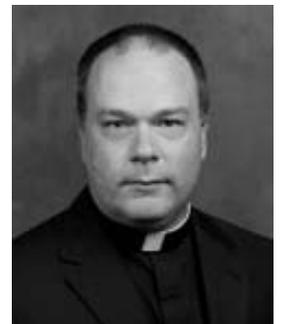


-Andy Hammeke, II Theology

Personally, the Intensive Spirituality Week provided an opportunity for integrating what I had gained from my summer in a parish with my life at seminary. It provided a transition period for re-entering community life, meeting the new men, and getting a feel for how I fit into the seminary community this year. Through our lectures, prayer, and conferences, I was reminded of the many simple truths (e.g. importance of fraternity, of honesty/humility, of making time for silence/prayer) which serve as the foundation, and give direction, for our formation. It was a challenging week, but a challenge packed with the invitation to depend on the Lord for stability and strength. It seems to me that the design of the week greatly depends upon our cooperation, our co-labor, our willingness and effort to grow and develop, in order that the seeds planted might bear fruit. Truly, the week offered us many opportunities to be in communion with God and to labor in love. For what more could we ask? Reflecting on the experience, I am grateful for the gifts received, sorrowful for the ways I resisted, and I pray for the grace to give as generously as I have been given. The soil of our hearts has been enriched, stirred-up, and made ready to receive the countless seeds of grace which will be scattered and sown throughout our semester. May we labor together with love in the harvest of the Lord.

-Dcn. Kyle Rodden, IV Theology

Coming back after a while away, I found the spirituality week to be a good landing back into seminary life and priestly formation. I particularly enjoyed the metaphor of the bells from Fr. Adrian Burke, O.S.B., which showed that we always resonate with God in our center. During his lectures Fr. Peter Marshall encouraged me to keep discerning the will of God ever more faithfully. And finally, in the day of prayer Bishop Gordon drew it all together, namely, that in so far as we cooperate with the God's grace we become more whole in our relationships with others and with ourselves. For me, then, the spirituality week taught me again that in many and various ways everything is one in God.



-Robert Smith, II Theology

Intensive Spirituality Week, continued

I thought that Fr. Julian Peters, O.S.B. provided a great springboard into the Spirituality Week with his homily on holy zeal. II Theology's conferences were largely focused on discernment and deep prayer—especially with respect to self-knowledge. These topics dovetailed very beautifully with Fr. Julian's call to examine what in our own lives we might find "sweeter than the call of the Lord." It was a powerful way to inaugurate a new year of formation: by identifying and, hopefully, working to clear those hurdles that induce lukewarm-ness in us all.



-Clark Lenz, II Theology

During the intensive spirituality week, Fr. Adrian Burke, O.S.B. presented prayer in the morning sessions to II Theology.

The conference that had a particularly important impact on me was his reflection with the Psalms. Long before I entered seminary, the Psalmody of the Liturgy of the hours has always been a lynch pin to my prayer life. Fr. Adrian's reminder that in addition to being Sacred Scripture, they are foundational to our tradition, and that Christ himself prayed the Psalms!

-Tim DeCrane, II Theology

Seeing the whole community of seminarians gather for a new formation year, whether they are new to the hill or it is their last year, was a highlight of the spirituality week. I enjoyed hearing about the unique and varied experiences we each had during the summer. There is also a consolation of community I feel as the chapel becomes full again for Mass and Liturgy of the Hours. On a smaller communal scale, my *lectio* groups allowed me the time to learn from the experience and perspective of others in the group. This has enriched my prayer life and helps me feel more connected to the seminary.

-Will Burmester, III Theology

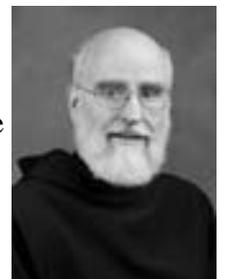
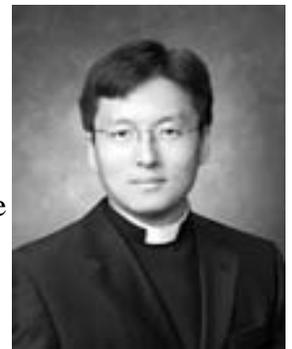
Although the "intensive" was included in the name of spirituality week, a better description may have been a week of "balance." Starting the week I was ready to come in with the same vigor of prayer and contemplation as a 48 hour weekend retreat, but quickly realized a more consistent, sustainable spirituality would get me through the week with more benefit. I believe this will be a huge takeaway for the semester and the upcoming years. I will need consistency of prayer from the office, mass, adoration, and the rosary. I will rely on support from the various groups I find myself associated with: my diocese, my class, my floor, and my house. I will need to take breaks in the form of socializing, exercise, athletics, and going out to eat. The busy, yet not overloaded, schedule of spirituality week has hopefully started us off with a focus on sustainability for a long semester.

-Garrett Braun, I Philosophy

I really enjoyed Spirituality week because it gave me an opportunity to settle into the community before the start of classes.

-Luke Hassler, I Theology

For me, the spirituality week for Third Theology was about immersing us deeper into the Church's threefold ministry of Word, liturgy, and charity. We were shown by Father John Kang how preaching should both take into account God's message (reflected upon in one's prayer life) and how it is presented to the assembly. We learned from Sr. Jeana Visel, O.S.B. how images can enrich our liturgical and devotional prayers. We also learned more from Father Bede Cisco how we will soon be called to sacramentalize the Church's service as deacons. Our classes showed us that all three ministries have a spiritual dimension. Ultimately, contemplation and service go hand-in-hand.



-Br. Lorenzo Penalosa, O.S.B., III Theology

Intensive Spirituality Week, continued

Plato in his *Metaphysics*, narrates an interesting account to explain his Theory of Recollection. The soul, having experienced tragedy while riding in a chariot, forgot the place of perfection where he formerly resides – the World of Forms. In order to go back to his perfect world, the soul needs to recollect – to remember what resides in his perfect world. I would like to believe that the past Intensive Spirituality Week was intended to put us on a stop, to help us gain our ground before going any further. Not to impede our excitement and our rushing adrenalin but to remember once again our purpose – that *singular purpose* of being here in the seminary. I could say that we are entering into a war of some sorts. So we have to do a preparation of some sort. It is a kind of preparation and cleansing of self. It's a good time of the year that we would like to remember that some things are somehow misshapen, wherein things are a bit out of place. Rebuilding, re-acknowledging, constantly renewing our will to be someone for something - for the greater glory of God!

-Aldrin Tayag, I Theology

The daily input on "Priesthood" by Father Rector was very challenging and thought-provoking as it touches on the essentials of what priesthood means in the modern world today. His talks always end with a challenge to recapture the spirit of sacrifice as well as the nobility of the priesthood as exemplified by Melchizedek.

The down-to-earth and profound conferences of Bishop Gordon were equally meaningful and worth pondering, especially that part of his talk that touched on the healing beauty of confession. He said something like, "If you haven't had any experience of telling someone your deepest wounded-ness, then there must be something wrong in the way you are living your life".

-Cesar Estiller, I Theology

Our week of Intensive Spirituality focused on the identity/virtues and the spiritual life of priesthood. Talks were presented by Fr. Rector Denis Robinson, O.S.B. and Fr. Christian Raab, O.S.B. In the virtues of the priesthood, Fr. Denis pointed out that continuous conversion of the priest is essential. Fr. Denis identified 3 thresholds of conversion, from "Intentional Disciples": trust, curiosity, and openness. Trust is a personal quality in which a priest can connect individually to the people; trust allows the priest to be a bridge to Jesus Christ for others. With curiosity, a priest must be prepared to answer questions and to evangelize to others. Openness is the awareness to oneself and to God that one is open to the possibility of conversion in life. Fr. Rector encouraged us that the priesthood lies in God's grace and "God does not give us a vocation without the grace to live it." Fr. Christian focused on the spiritual life of the priesthood. He elaborated on getting the most out of spiritual direction and what to look for in a Spiritual Director and also touched on the elements of a good Confession. Fr. Christian revealed to us that the most important thing a priest can do is be obedient. Fr. Christian identified that celibacy is: a calling, a sign, and a gift. He stated, "If you can be happy as a celibate, you are giving a witness to the existence of God."

-Sean Aaron, I Theology

I found very interesting the statistics about the priesthood from Fr. Rector Denis. He said that although the U.S. is fourth in the world in number of Catholics, we have twice as many priests. This gives me a whole new perspective on the "vocation crisis" to which we so readily ascribe some of the problems today. It made me realize how important it is to have a faith community in the parish based on God and the communal parish life, rather than on the priest himself. It has given me a certain sense of hope in going into a parish and seeking to build it up.

-Peter Grodi, I Theology

Father Ron Knott taught us the whole week. That is twenty-four hours of conferences!! And I enjoyed it! Many things were said and can be said about what he said, but I will say one thing: he is a priest who has *persevered*. That is for sure. And he has persevered with *joy*. Give us that grace, Lord. Amen.

-Dcn. Kyle Neterer, IV Theology

I found the intensive spirituality week to be a great start to the formation year. Not only were the classes interesting and informative, the schedule was well thought out to allow good time for prayer and reflection. The two topics we covered in Second Theology are essential and decisive at this stage of our seminary formation - Prayer and Discernment. Fr Adrian and Fr Peter both did excellent work in teaching us about these topics. I found both classes to be a good balance between theory and practicality and the insights gained will be very helpful to my prayer this year at a critical junction in my formation for the priesthood.

-Joey Dunbar, II Theology

Day of Prayer

The Most Rev. Jason Gordon, Bishop of Bridgetown, Barbados and the Diocese of Kingstown in St. Vincent led the seminary community in a day of prayer on Sunday, August 30, 2015.

The Day of Prayer included two conferences led by Bishop Jason, Mass and Homily, and house quiet.

Each conference focused on vocation as related to two Bible passages.



The first conference was titled, “Costing Not Less Than Everything,” and was related to Genesis 3:1-24, Adam and Eve Sin. The passage shows how sin broke the relationship with self, the relationship between God and humanity, the relationship between man and neighbor, and the human relationship with nature. To return to some type of harmony we need to balance our intellect, emotions, and physical bodies. Spirituality is the way we bring this balance to our life. We do this to get back to paradise, where Christ invites us like he did the Good Thief. When we sin, like Adam we have shame, and then we go to hide. Like Adam, we seek to blame. Confession is the way we return harmony to our relationship with God. If we sin, and can’t confess to God through the priest, when we have shame and go to hide, we move away from grace. To move back towards grace, we must be willing to stand naked without shame before God.

The second conference was titled, “The Cost of Discipleship: Choices,” and was related to Matthew 19:16-30, The Rich Young Man. Is God just on our checklist with the rest of our activities? There are four levels of vocation: by virtue of birth, by virtue of baptism, the daily call of our conscience, and God’s call of our Church into the integral development of every element of every human person. What are our riches that keep seminarians from Christ? There are many, but some include: physical sexuality, freedom of what we do (obedience), possessions (materialism), and family (having a family of your own). We must be willing to sell these riches/treasures and turn away, so that we can follow Him, anything less will only build up shame. We must be willing to be honest with our confessors and with ourselves. Ask God for the grace to give up your riches. It is this sort of relationship with God that will guide the Church of the 21st century!

Following the conferences the seminarians were in awe of the prayerful, powerful, and inspirational homiletic skills of Bishop Jason. Our very own Kirt Prospere, I Theology, is a seminarian for the Diocese of Bridgetown, Barbados. Kirt served the Bishop at Mass and was grinning from ear-to-ear as they shared meals before and after the conferences.

Faculty Blessing & Banquet

Monday August 31, 2015 St. Meinrad Seminary celebrated Evening Prayer with Convocation and the Blessing of Faculty presided by Fr. Rector Denis Robinson, O.S.B. After the ceremony the students, faculty, and staff enjoyed a reception in the Alumni Commons followed by a banquet in the refectory. Several students were asked at the reception what they remembered from the Rector's address based on Isaiah 50, "The Lord has given me a well worn tongue..."

"Academic formation will sharpen our tongues so that we may speak the truth."

-NB, Diocese of Crookston

"We don't usually see this version of Father Denis until at least the middle of the semester."

-AJ, Diocese of Mobile

"The church is a lively mess; that's not a bad thing but a good thing."

-BLC, St. Bernard Abbey

"I'm glad the Rector acknowledged most of us won't read everything we're supposed to!"

-BSL, Saint Anselm Abbey

"That part about the robots was awesome...and to be honest with yourself...and our world is relativistic."

-DCB, Diocese of Mobile



"For some of us seminary is a new thing, while for others it's the same but it's different."

-JL, Diocese of Busan

"Some of us are preparing for the diaconate. This reinforced for me the gravity of seminary."

-LW, Diocese of Little Rock

"Honesty is power."

MS, Diocese of Little Rock

"We are here to renew ourselves to more deeply evangelize the Church."

AT, Diocese of Evansville

"We must speak the truth in love to ourselves and others, even unto death."

CE, Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

"Enthusiasm is a way of living for every good Catholic. We can use enthusiasm to help encourage our new seminarian brothers. Enthusiasm is how we live our life as a witness to Christ."

-VL, Diocese of Oklahoma City

"The faculty needs conversion too!"

-SR, Diocese of Louisville

"The world loves an allusion. We want to believe."

-KE, Diocese of Oklahoma City

"We are perpetual pilgrims, starting over again and again."

-JP, Diocese of Evansville

"The academic year for us will be a year of perseverance."

-TD, Diocese of Indianapolis



Espiritualidad Semana

Como soy muy analítico, mi primer reacción fue analizar la primer clase, Imágenes del Sacerdocio, de la misma manera: Como podía encontrar la presencia de Dios en el material que estudiábamos, o como me ayudaría a mejorar mi relación con Dios. Durante los primeros días de la clase aprendimos las cualidades que describen a un buen sacerdote, al igual que aprendimos algo de la historia del Sacerdocio. Sin embargo, yo no lograba encontrar la parte espiritual en esta clase. Finalmente, el día sábado, en los últimos 5 minutos de la clase, fue el momento que todo tuvo sentido: Dios se hace presente a las personas a través de la manera que ellos ven y perciben a su Sacerdote. La congregación verá la presencia de un Dios Maestro, cuando el Sacerdote tenga los consejos y enseñe a su pueblo. La congregación verá la presencia de Dios el Buen Pastor cuando sienten que el Sacerdote cuida y se preocupa por cada uno de los miembros de su parroquia. La congregación verá la presencia de un Dios Misericordioso cuando se acercan al Sacramento de Reconciliación y encuentran a un Sacerdote compasivo dispuesto a escuchar y brindar el perdón de Dios.

Esa lección será muy importante para nuestro futuro ministerio: qué imagen de Dios recibirá la gente a la que serviremos en el futuro?

-Daniel Velasco, II Philosophy



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| Sunday | 1:00 - 4:00 pm |
| Monday | 1:00 - 4:00 pm |
| Tuesday | 1:00 - 4:00 pm |
| Wednesday | Closed |
| Thursday | 1:00 - 4:00 pm |
| Friday | 1:00 - 3:45 pm |
| Saturday | 8:00 - 3:45 pm |

The Saint Meinrad House Cup

Saint Meinrad seminarians are divided into houses. Houses compete throughout the year for domination. Activities involve sports, games of intellect, athleticism, and above all, a cunning (yet Christian) desire to be the best and hoist the trophy at the end of the year!

Rules:

- 1) Points are given to every house member who participates
- 2) More points are given for winning and then runner-ups
- 3) Points accumulate throughout the year and Saint Meinrad will have only one House Champion!

-Contact: Martin Siebold or Colby Elbert

Ping-Pong Tournament

August 25, 2015

Singles

Runner-ups: Dua Nguyen & Jon Miskin

Champion: Kien Nguyen

Doubles

Runner-ups: Keith Higginbotham & Stephen Elser
Dua Nguyen & Matt Schmitz

Champions: Jon Miskin & George Jose



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| House of St. Paul | 455 |
| House of St. Matthew | 360 |
| House of St. Mark | 250 |
| House of St. John | 220 |
| House of St. Luke | 95 |